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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 19, 1965

Dear Josh:

Thank you for sending me your thoughts on the anti-ballistic missile problem. As you can imagine, this issue is receiving a lot of attention here in Washington these days.

I agree with you that we need better communications on this subject with the Russians, whether or not we decide to deploy a ballistic missile system, in view of its implications on the over-all strategic arms race. However, I frankly don't see very much merit in your specific proposal that we offer the Soviets "an anti-ballistic missile system on a silver platter" since we know the Soviets for some time have had a very substantial research and development program of their own in this area. Therefore, given current Soviet reluctance to accept inspection, it seems unrealistic to hope that they would reverse their position on this subject in exchange for something they probably feel they already have.

Despite this negative reaction, I welcome "unconventional" thoughts on this difficult and important subject. If you wish to pursue these ideas, I would suggest that the most effective way to do so would be for you to discuss them with Dr. Panofsky and Dr. Drell at Stanford since both of them are on the PSAC Strategic Military Panel which is considering this problem on a continuing basis.

Sincerely yours,



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